

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

The Cleveland Museum of Art has acquired a major work of sculpture by Louise Nevelson, Sherman E. Lee, Director of the Museum, has announced.

The sculpture, a gift to the Museum from the Mildred Andrews Fund, is a large-scale wooden environmental work of 1958-59 entitled Sky Cathedral-Moon Garden Wall. Presently it is on display in the Museum's new accessions exhibition area on the first floor.

"The much appreciated gift is a significant addition to the Museum's collection of modern art," Dr. Lee says. "Louise Nevelson is one of the major masters of the contemporary movement, her work extraordinarily inventive, poetic, and visionary," Dr. Lee continues.

The Mildred Andrews Fund, donor of the sculpture, is a charitable foundation established by Peter Putnam of New York in honor of his mother, Mildred Andrews Putnam of Cleveland.

Sky Cathedral-Moon Garden Wall stands 85-5/8 inches high and measures 75-1/4 inches wide by 12-1/8 inches deep. Painted entirely black, and composed of rectangular compartments crowded with architectural ornaments, geometric shapes, and rough, irregular bits of wood, the work suggests a mysterious landscape filled with shadowy, unexpected images.

It is one of a group of complex, often monumental constructions -- or "walls" -- which Mrs. Nevelson began to develop in the late 1950s. Two other walls from this period are in public collections, Sky Cathedral (1958), at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Dawn's Wedding Chapel II (1959),

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nevelson sculpture

at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

Louise Nevelson was born in Kiev, Russia, in 1900 and moved with her family to Maine around 1905. In 1920 she married Charles Nevelson and settled in New York to study the visual and performing arts.

During the late 1920s she was a student at the Art Students League in New York. Later, she studied briefly with Hans Hofmann at his school in Munich. Her first one woman show was held at the Nierendorf Gallery, New York, in 1941.

Over the last three decades her work has been exhibited widely in the United States and Europe. During 1967 the first major Nevelson retrospective exhibition was held at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and in 1973, the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis organized an important exhibition of her wood sculptures.

The Walker exhibition, currently being circulated, will be at the Cleveland Museum January 28 through March 29, 1975. For the Cleveland showing, Sky Cathedral-Moon Garden Wall will be added to the exhibition.

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